

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 283165
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 283165

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 19582 ACTION SECSTATE NIACT IMMEDIATE NOV 26

QUOTE: S E C R E T CAIRO 19582

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, EG, SO, ET

SUBJECT: SADAT ON SOMALI/ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT

REF: CAIRO 19438

1. WHEN MEETING WITH SADAT LAST NIGHT, HE NOTED
SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE WILL ARRIVE IN CAIRO
TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 27. SADAT WAS SURE THAT SIAD'S
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MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PRESS HIS PROPOSAL THAT EGYPTIANS
SEND ARMED FORCES TO BERBERA AND NORTHERN SOMALI PORTS.
SADAT RECALLED OUR EARLIER PERTINENT TALK (REFTEL) IN
WHICH HE HAD INDICATED THAT ANY SUCH EGYPTIAN MILITARY
DEPLOYMENT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE UNLESS USG SUPPORTS IT,
INCLUDING WITH ARMS. HAD THERE BEEN ANY RESPONSE TO
HIS EARLIER QUERY?

2. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT NO RESPONSE YET RECEIVED. HE WOULD UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT PREVIOUS DAY HAD BEEN THANKSGIVING, A NATIONAL HOLIDAY. IN ANY EVENT, HE KNEW FROM PREVIOUS PERTINENT EXCHANGES OUR DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING ARMS TO EITHER PARTY IN CURRENT SOMALI/ EGYPTIAN DISPUTE. I RECOGNIZED ARMS HE WAS REQUESTING WERE NOT INTENDED FOR USE IN OGADEN, BUT FOR PURPOSE OF DETERRING ATTACK ON RECOGNIZED SOMALI TERRITORY. AS HE KNEW, WE HAD IN PAST EXPRESSED READINESS IN PRINCIPLE PROVIDE DEFENSIVE WEAPONS TO SOMALIA, BUT HAD FELT COMPELLED TO SUSPEND THIS WHEN SIAD BEGAN HIS OGADEN VENTURE. TO BEST MY KNOWLEDGE, THIS REMAINS SITUATION. WE ARE PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA. WE ALSO SUPPORT OAU MEDIATION EFFORTS AND I EXPRESSED HOPE SADDAT WOULD URGE SIAD COOPERATE WITH THOSE EFFORTS.

3. SADAT SAID HE KNEW OUR POLICY, BUT WONDERED WHETHER SIAD'S EXPULSION OF SOVIET ADVISERS HAD CHANGED THE SITUATION. SOVIETS CONTINUE TO SUPPLY QUANTITIES OF ARMS TO THE ETHIPIANS, WHO WILL DOUBTLESS SHORTLY LAUNCH ATTACK AGAINST SOMALIA. HE RECALLED COMMENT ALLEGEDLY MADE TO HIM BY BEGIN THAT SOVIET GENERALS ARE EVERYWHERE IN ETHIOPIA AND THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE TO LESSEN SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THAT COUNTRY. SHOULD A SOVIET DOMINATED ETHIOPIA TAKE OVER IN
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SOMALIA, SOVIETS WILL HAVE GAINED STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE NOT ONLY IN HORN OF AFRICA, BUT ALSO IN RED SEA AND INDIAN OCEAN. HE HOPED HE MIGHT HAVE REPLY TO HIS QUERY ASAP.

4. DEPT MAY WISH PASS THIS MESSAGE TO ADDIS ABABA, TEL AVIV AND MOGADISCIO. EILTS UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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